

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, who are celebrating 100 years of women voting in California, starting with the historic and narrowly won California State referendum and the first California Civic League, Berkeley Forum led by Miss Blanche Morse in 1911. It is an immense honor to represent Bay Area communities who have truly been at the forefront of a century's worth of major achievements in social justice.

Over the years, what is now the League of Women Voters of Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, as well as its sister leagues in Oakland, Piedmont, and the surrounding Bay Area, have worked tirelessly to advocate, educate, and champion citizens' informed and active participation in government and civic affairs.

An expansive and well-organized network of committed chapters, over 4,000 members in 21 local Leagues comprise the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, LWVBA, which took shape in 1959. On a national scale, the League of Women Voters of the United States, LWVUS, was founded during the 1920 convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, held just six months before the 19th Amendment was ratified. Thus, after a 72-year struggle, the U.S. Constitution finally reflected what women in the Bay Area and California had fought to achieve a decade earlier.

As members of the League of Women Voters, you are part of a magnificent legacy. Additionally, you have pledged to continue to be the kind of bold pioneers and astute advocates who led us to this point. Therefore, I would like to thank you for your dedicated service in guiding and encouraging our community toward civic engagement.

Moreover, the League has flexed its power in shaping public policy through the strength of its grassroots organization and by maintaining its important stance of non-partisanship. For example, the Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville chapter has worked extensively on advocating for fair housing and the promotion of social resources, including mental health, education, juvenile justice, and senior services. Likewise, the Oakland chapter has been a major advocate for ranked choice voting, quality education, and accessible housing. And, the Piedmont chapter holds positions in the areas of social policy, diversity, and natural resources, to name a few.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate you on this milestone and thank you for the invaluable service you provide to our community. I wish the League of Women Voters' local, State, and national members all the best as you forge ahead toward another 100 years of protecting the rights of voters, promoting sound policy, and creating a more just and peaceful world.

HONORING ADMIRAL ERIC T.
OLSON**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the inspirational leadership of ADM Eric T. Olson. Admiral Olson's service is worthy of recognition by the entire Tampa community, the United States Armed Services and every citizen of our great Nation.

A native of Tacoma, Wash., Olson graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1973 and qualified as a Naval Special Warfare, SEAL, officer in 1974. He has served operationally in an Underwater Demolition Team, SEAL Team, SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team, Special Boat Squadron, and at the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. He has commanded at every level.

Olson has participated in several conflicts and contingency operations, and has served as a SEAL instructor, strategy and tactics development officer and joint special operations staff officer. His overseas assignments include service as a United Nations military observer in Israel and Egypt, and as Navy Programs officer in Tunisia. He served on the Navy staff as assistant deputy chief of Naval Operations (Plans, Policy, and Operations).

Olson earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School and studied at the Defense Language Institute. He is a Joint Specialty officer and Political-Military Affairs sub-specialist with emphasis on Africa and the Middle East. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and Silver Star.

Admiral Olson became the first Navy SEAL to take the helm at Special Operations Command. It is only befitting that such a decorated and committed SEAL played an integral role in the successful raid on the Abbottabad compound that ended the search for Osama bin Laden. In addition to being the first three- and four-star Navy SEAL, Admiral Olson is currently the Bull Frog, the longest serving Navy SEAL still on duty. At four-star flag rank, Olson is the highest ranking Navy SEAL to hold the Bull Frog title.

The Tampa community and MacDill Air Force Base are proud to recognize Admiral Olson for his outstanding career and his many significant contributions to the Navy and our country. His determination and hard work have made him an inspirational leader within our Nation's Armed Services.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
JESSE E. COOLEY, JR.**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Jesse E. Cooley, Jr., who passed away on July 20, 2011 at the age of 79. He will be remembered for his savvy business sense, impressive musical abilities, and his great service to Central Valley families.

Jesse E. Cooley, Jr. was born on November 2, 1931 in Fresno, California. He attended Edi-

son High School where he was class president, played on the football team, ran for the track and field team, sang as a member of the Boys Glee Club, and played as lead drummer for the school band.

Upon graduating from high school, Mr. Cooley embraced his passion for music. He found work playing as a member of the Cal Tjader jazz band, which served as the beginning of his music career. His talent provided him the opportunity to play with jazz legends including Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, and Jack Teagarden.

In addition to having an impressive musical repertoire, Mr. Cooley was also a proud and respected businessman. Mr. Cooley's father, Jesse E. Cooley, Sr., opened the first Black-owned mortuary in the San Joaquin Valley. In 1953, Mr. Cooley followed in his father's footsteps when he teamed up with his business partner, Andrew Riolo, and opened the first Black-owned mortuary in Solano County, California. Three years later, Mr. Cooley returned to Fresno and immersed himself in the family business. In 1959, Mr. Cooley and his father opened the second branch of their business in Bakersfield, California to serve the residents of the southern Central Valley. The family business expanded north in 1971 when they opened a third location in Stockton, California.

As a member of the San Joaquin Valley business community for more than 50 years, Mr. Cooley was able to help thousands of individuals during times of great sadness. The great amount of trust Central Valley families placed in Mr. Cooley and his business is exemplified by the 10,000 services he hosted; most notably, the family of civil rights activist César E. Chávez and the family of Major General Vang Pao.

Whether he was playing music for his family and friends, or serving our community, Mr. Cooley will be remembered as a man filled with compassion and joy. He was preceded in death by his son, Jesse E. Cooley III. He is survived by his wife Barbara Taylor-Cooley; sons, Stephen R. Cooley, David A. Cooley, Phillip M. Cooley, and Corey D. Cooley; his daughters, Lisa C. Oliver and Christie M. Cooley; his sister Dorythea Cooley; and numerous friends and community members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Jesse E. Cooley, Jr., an honorable and respected man with a commitment to bringing peace and comfort to families during their most difficult time. May his legacy continue to live on in our community and in the lives of those he touched.

HONORING THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF VASA PARK**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vasa Park, located in the Township of Mount Olive, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Vasa Park, established in 1929, was originally created to serve as a retirement community for Scandinavian immigrants in the Morris County area. However, as time passed and the community grew, it became a vacation spot for many of those same Scandinavian immigrants and their families. Today, ancestors